



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,002	08/20/2003	Masahiko Oikawa	241758US2	4857

22850 7590 08/07/2007
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

DHINGRA, PAWANDEEP

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2625

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-------------------	---------------

08/07/2007

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com
oblonpat@oblon.com
jgardner@oblon.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/644,002

Applicant(s)

OIKAWA, MASAHIKO

Examiner

Pawandeep S. Dhingra

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/17/2007, 6/17/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: a Response to Restriction Requirement filed on 07/27/2007.
- Claims 8-37 have been non-elected in the present application.
- Claims 1-7 (based on Species I) are now pending, and are being examined on the merits in response to the election made with traverse by the applicant in the present application.

Examiner Notes

Examiner cites particular paragraphs, columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that, in preparing responses, the applicant fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

Art Unit: 2625

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Doi, US 6,192,202.

Re claim 1, Doi discloses an image forming system (see figure 5) comprising a first image forming apparatus (see element 41 in figure 5), and a second image forming apparatus (see element 40 in figure 5) that are connected to each other via a communication line (see image data interface, cable 28 in figure 5), wherein the first image forming apparatus includes an image reading unit (i.e. scanner unit, figure 2) that reads image data from a document (see column 3, lines 60-61), and the second image forming apparatus includes an image storing unit (see image data management unit, figure 2) that stores image data (see column 3, lines 61-63) (note that each image forming apparatus has a image reading unit and storage unit as shown in figure 2 and are connected together via a external controller, which controls both the apparatuses, see column 1, line 11-column 2, line 60), see; and a reading controller (i.e. central control unit 21, figure 2) that controls the image reading unit to read the image data, and controls the image storing unit to store the image data (see column 4, lines 9-13, note that the central control unit 21 controls the image reading (scanning) and storing operations of the image forming system via the external controller interface for the external controller (see column 4 – line 63 – column 5, line 33; column 1, line 11-column 2, line 60; column 6, lines 1-16; figures 2, 4-5).

Re claim 2, Doi further discloses the first image forming apparatus further includes an automatic document feeder that feeds a plurality of documents to the image reading unit one by one (see column 3, lines 17-21; lines 45-51), and the reading controller (i.e. central control unit) controls an operation of the automatic document feeder (see column 3, lines 55-65, note that *"the image forming apparatus 10 comprises a central control unit 21 for controlling the entirety of the apparatus"*).

Re claim 3. Doi further discloses the second image forming apparatus (element 40 or master 40, figure 5) further includes a first image forming controller (CPU 70 of external controller 39) that reads the image data from the image storing unit, transmits the image data to the first image forming apparatus (element 41 or slave 41, figure 5) (see column 6, lines 1-16, note that the central control unit of master 40 transmits the image data to CPU 70 of the external controller 39, the CPU 70 reads the image data from the storing unit and transmits the set amount of data to the slave 41), and controls the first image forming apparatus to form an image based on the image data (see column 6, lines 17-41); and a second image forming controller (CPU 70 of external controller 39) that reads the image data from the image storing unit, transmits the image data to the second image forming apparatus (see column 6, lines 17-65, note that after allocating data to the slave, the CPU 70 distributes the remainder of the data to the master), and controls the second image forming apparatus to form an image based on the image data (see column 5, line 34-column 6, line 65).

Re claim 4, Doi further discloses the first image forming apparatus further includes a first data expansion unit (i.e. image data management unit, see figure 2) that expands

Art Unit: 2625

compressed image data (see column 3, line 61-column 4, line 3, note that decompression circuit is used for again expanding the compressed image data), the second image forming apparatus further includes a data compression unit (i.e. image data management unit, see figure 2) that compresses image data (see column 3, line 61-column 4, line 3, note that *"the image data management unit 23 includes a compression/decompression circuit 23a for compressing/decompressing image data"*) (Also note that both the first and second image forming apparatuses have the very same structure as shown in figure 2, see column 5, lines 26-28); and a second data expansion unit (i.e. image data management unit, see figure 2) that expand compressed image data (see column 3, line 61-column 4, line 3, note that *"the image data management unit 23 includes a compression/decompression circuit 23a for compressing/decompressing image data"*). Hence the decompression circuit of management unit is used for again expanding the compressed image data), the reading controller (i.e. central control unit, see figure 2) controls the data compression unit to compress the image data acquired from the first image forming apparatus before storing the image data in the image storing unit (see column 6, lines 1-16), and the first image forming controller and the second image forming controller include a first expansion controller (central control unit for first image forming apparatus, see figure 2) and second expansion controller (central control unit for second image forming apparatus, see figure 2) (note that both the first and second image forming apparatuses have the very same structure as shown in figure 2, see column 5, lines 26-28) that controls the first data expansion unit and the second data expansion unit to expand the compressed image data, respectively (see column 6, lines

1-16, and column 3, lines 55-65, note that central control unit controls the entirety of the image forming apparatus including the image data management unit (data expansion/compression unit).

Re claim 5, Doi further discloses the first expansion controller controls the first data expansion unit to expand the compressed image data transferred from the second image forming apparatus to the first image forming apparatus (see column 6, lines 1-16, and column 3, lines 55-65, note that the image data in the compressed form is transferred from the master to slave image forming apparatus, and once the compressed data is received by the slave apparatus it is decompressed by the compression/decompression circuit of the image data management unit. Also note that central control unit controls the entirety of the image forming apparatus including the image data management unit).

Re claim 7, Doi further discloses the image storing unit is a hard disk drive (see element 23 in figure 2; element 73 in figure 6; column 3, line 65-column 4, line 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Doi, US 6,192,202 in view of Nagasawa et al., US 6384928.

Re claim 6, Doi fails to disclose the communication line is based on a communication interface conforming the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers 1394 standard.

However, Nagasawa discloses the communication line is based on a communication interface conforming the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers 1394 standard (see figure 2, column 1, lines 13-16; column 3, lines 12-23; column 4, lines 10-16).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to modify the communication line as disclosed by Doi to include the IEEE 1394 standard serial bus as taught by Nagasawa for the benefit of having a faster and high performance communication line as taught by Nagasawa at column 1, lines 13-27.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments on pages 1-2, filed 05/27/2007, with respect to the election of restriction requirement have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Upon further consideration, the examiner still recognizes the present inventions as independent or distinct for the reasons given in the Requirement for Restriction/Election mailed 06/27/2007. The restriction for examination purposes as indicated in earlier correspondence is proper since there is all examination and search

burden for the indicated patentably distinct species due to their mutually exclusive characteristics. The species require a different field of search (e.g., searching different classes/subclasses or electronic resources, or employing different search queries); and/or the prior art applicable to one species would not likely be applicable to another species; and/or the species are likely to raise different non-prior art issues under 35 U.S.C. 101 and/or 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, and therefore would put serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not made.

Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pawandeep S. Dhingra whose telephone number is 571-270-1231. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:30-7:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Lamb can be reached on 571-272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

Art Unit: 2625

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Pd
July 30, 2007


TWYLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER